UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/218
E/1993/96
23 June 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/RUSSIAN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Item 106 of the preliminary list*

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Substantive session of 1993
Item 8 of the provisional agenda

STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO STUDY, MITIGATE AND MINIMIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER

Letter dated 22 June 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the appeal to parliaments, Governments and the international community issued by the participants in the International Conference on the Scientific and Practical Aspects of Medical and Social Problems and the Role of the Sanatorium and Spa System in Improving the Health of the Population Exposed to the Effects of Radiation as a Consequence of the Accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, and of Other Radiological Disasters, held on 10 and 11 February 1993 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 106 of the preliminary list, and also as an official document of the substantive session of 1993 of the Economic and Social Council, under item 8 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Y. VORONTSOV

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* A/48/50.

Annex

Appeal to parliaments, Governments and the international community issued by the participants in the International Conference on the Scientific and Practical Aspects of Medical and Social Problems and the Role of the Sanatorium and Spa System in Improving the Health of the Population Exposed to the Effects of Radiation as a Consequence of the Accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, and of Other Radiological Disasters, held on 10 and 11 February 1993

At the International Conference, held at Galitsyno near Moscow, scientists and specialists from many countries of Europe, Asia and America, and representatives from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), analysed the consequences of the Chernobyl and other nuclear accidents for present and future generations.

The present generation was stunned by the scale of the nuclear disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Vast areas of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia are contaminated with the radioactive remnants of the explosion. In Russia alone, 7,000 towns and villages, with a population of 2.3 million people, have been affected. The health of the adult and child population in these and other areas contaminated by radiation is of serious concern and requires continuous medical control.

Major programmes are being carried out to resettle people from the affected areas and provide them with uncontaminated foodstuffs and with medical care and treatment, inter alia with the assistance of international organizations, the general public and the Governments of a number of foreign countries. However, these efforts must be intensified in order to improve the quality of health care and achieve other humanitarian goals, establish medical, diagnostic and treatment centres, as well as sanatoriums and other establishments for convalescents and increase appropriations for medical equipment, uncontaminated foodstuffs and the prime necessities, especially for children.

The participants in the Conference appreciate the great contribution that the parliaments, Governments and the general public of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine have made to the implementation of national programmes of assistance to those segments of the population that were exposed to radiation, and hope that they will continue to accord high priority to this crucial problem.

The participants in the Conference welcomed the efforts of the United Nations to mobilize the international community to mitigate the consequences of this technological disaster, which is unprecedented in the history of mankind. They hope that these efforts will help save the lives of the hundreds of thousands of people affected by the accident and contribute substantially to the full rehabilitation of the regions contaminated by radioactivity.

The participants in the Conference approved the UNESCO Chernobyl programme and the WHO International Programme on the Health Effects of the Chernobyl Accident. They are confident that these programmes, as well as the relevant

projects and programmes of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation and other international organizations, will be fully implemented.

The Conference appeals to parliaments, Governments, social organizations, scientific and business circles and citizens of all countries to intensify their efforts to help save the lives and protect the health of the people affected by the accident, and fully revitalize the regions that have been exposed to radioactive contamination.

For their part, the participants in the Conference, both personally and within the framework of the organizations that they represent, shall do everything in their power to assist the victims of radiological accidents and prevent nuclear disasters in future, in order to eliminate the very possibility of nuclear cataclysms.